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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to make the following observations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/68/1):

Although in its various chapters the report contains many paragraphs concerning the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, it makes no mention in the chapter on drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations of the savage terrorist attacks that are being committed against Syria by extremist and takfirist terrorist groups, the majority of the members of which are transnational terrorists and foreign mercenaries.

Many reports issued by the United Nations itself have confirmed that the influence of Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has risen in Syria. The most recent of those was the fourteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) (S/2013/467), which was submitted to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities (S/2013/467).

The Security Council has issued many press statements condemning the acts of terrorism and suicide bombings that have been committed in Syria, attacks that have killed and injured thousands of Syrians. The Council has also added the terrorist organization know as the Nusra Front to the list of entities and other groups and undertakings associated with Al-Qaida. In a statement made by the President of the Security Council on 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), the Council clearly

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condemned the increasing terrorist attacks that are being carried out by organizations and individuals associated with Al-Qaida and are resulting in numerous casualties and great destruction in Syria.

As you are aware, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in New York, acting on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, has sent scores of letters to the Secretary-General and successive Presidents of the Security Council regarding the acts of terrorism and suicide bombings that terrorist groups have perpetrated in Syria. These crimes have targeted Syrian civilians and military personnel, Muslim and Christian religious leaders, hospitals, educational institutions, mosques and churches, civilian aircraft, diplomatic missions, factories, antiquities, museums, shrines and United Nations peacekeepers serving in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Those letters have been circulated as documents of the Security Council and the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items.

We had been hoping that the report of the Secretary-General would make reference to these acts of terrorism that are aimed at the Syrian State and people, or that it would call on those States that encourage terrorism and support, arm, train, fund and dispatch transnational terrorists and foreign mercenaries who are fighting proxy wars in Syrian territory to desist from such practices, which are a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles governing good-neighbourly relations between States and the international counter-terrorism instruments.

It is truly regrettable that the United Nations has stood by impotently as extremism and terrorism continue to rise in Syria and the region with the blessing and support of certain States Members of the Organization. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that those States that are arming, funding, training and providing safe havens for armed terrorists and facilitating their entry into Syria are partners in terrorism and complicit in the killing of Syrians. Their actions not only violate the principles of international law and Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, the most important of which are resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1989 (2011), but are also contrary to resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012) and 2118 (2013) and the Geneva communiqué, all of which affirm the importance of arriving at a resolution to the Syrian crisis through a Syrian-led political process.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 110 and 111, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative